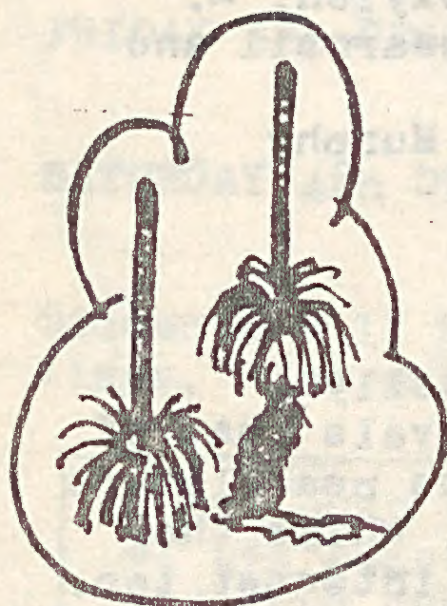


BALLARAT FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

EXCURSION/NEWS SHEET - NOVEMBER 1976



President: Mr. G. Binns Ph. 323670
Secretary: Mrs. M. Rotheram 301671
Treasurer: Mr. S. Reynolds 327721

MEETINGS held in the Science Building of the School of Mines, Lydiard St. Sth. 8 p.m.

3rd DECEMBER Mr. A. Sonsee - Botany

4th FEBRUARY 1977 Member's Night.

EXCURSIONS::

7th November - Mt. Cole, all day. L. Millar.
21st November - Camp Out - Major Mitchell Plateau.
5th December - Pre-Christmas Surprise Excursion. Half day.
6th February 1977 - Anglessea - Miss M. White.

OCTOBER MEETING. Thirty members attended the meeting on 1st October. New members welcomed were Mr. R. Borch, Miss K. Alder, Miss K. Williamson and Mr. G. Fink. Mr. P. Day gave an interesting and often humorous talk on Geology, enlarging on the alluvial gold fields of Ballarat in the 50s and 60s of the last century.

ENFIELD FOREST PARK EXCURSION:

On Sunday 26th September, in beautiful spring weather, a number of our members drove to Enfield for the mid-monthly excursion.

The geology of the area is chiefly older ordovician and consists of shales, slates, sandstones and mudstones.

The vegetation is of the open foothill forest type and consists largely of stringybarks and peppermints. There are also a large number of acacias, other leguminous plants, heaths, and perennials of the orchid and lily family.

Of great interest to the members were the large number of greenhoods seen flowering. These included *pterostylis pedunculata*, the maroon-hood, and the tiny *pterostylis nana*.

Masses of *acacia aculeatissima*, the prostrate wattle, could be seen covering many areas of the sloping hillsides. Other acacias noted were - *Acacia armata*, *A. gunnii*, *A. dealbata*, *A. myrtifolia*, *A. melanoxylon*, *A. verticillata*, *A. lanigera*, *A. decurrens*, *A. nearnsii* and *A. baileyana*.

Contributed - Mrs. P. Murphy

A NOTE FROM WIRRIMBIRRA:

The wildflowers in the area have been really beautiful. The very rich and varied flora rivals that of the Grampians. Wax-flowers, boronias, various pea-flowers and wattles have provided a splash of colour, while the smaller less significant plants have been of interest too.

Birdlife is also quite varied, with such species as white-throated warbler, leaden flycatcher and noisy friar-bird having arrived back for the summer. Other species, resident here, include rock warbler, whipbird, peaceful dove, little wattlebird and variegated wren.

The habitats in the Wirrimbirra 240 acres are of 4 main types:- (1) forest similar to Enfield, (2) heath like parts of the Grampians, (3) ironbarks with grassy under-story (like Maryborough bush), (4) creek gullies with dense vegetation, some-what like those of the Wombat Forest. Members will thus understand why I have done little exploring in the district, as my spare time is often spent in our own bush, within walking distance of my house.

I enjoy receiving the News-sheets and note with pleasure the new format which should prove successful. With the solar eclipse soon to occur, I am particularly looking forward to receiving the November issue with reports of the Mt. Beckworth excursion.

Members will be interested to know that former Club Secretary, Bruce Abbott, will be calling on me shortly, so we will be reminiscing on Club activities in days gone by.

Wishing you all "good observing".

From Roger Thomas.

(Lovely to hear from you Roger, thank you so much. Eds.)

OPEN DAY
SCHOOL OF FORESTRY - CRESWICK.

FRIDAY 3rd DECEMBER 1976: 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1.30 p.m.,
2.30 p.m., 3.30 p.m.

SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER 1976: 9.30 a.m., 10.30 a.m., 11 a.m.,
1.30 p.m., 2 p.m.

Students will be showing visitors around at the above times. The public will be made most welcome.

A periodic visitor to Victoria, Gerald Maisel M.D., of Los Angeles, California, has written to Stella Bedggood concerning an intended visit to Ballarat for the purpose of visiting Mt. Beckworth on Monday November 29. During his stay Dr. Maisel will present:

An Illustrated Programme on

ALASKA; SOCIABLE WEAVER OF THE KALAHARI; AND

THE GALAPAGOS

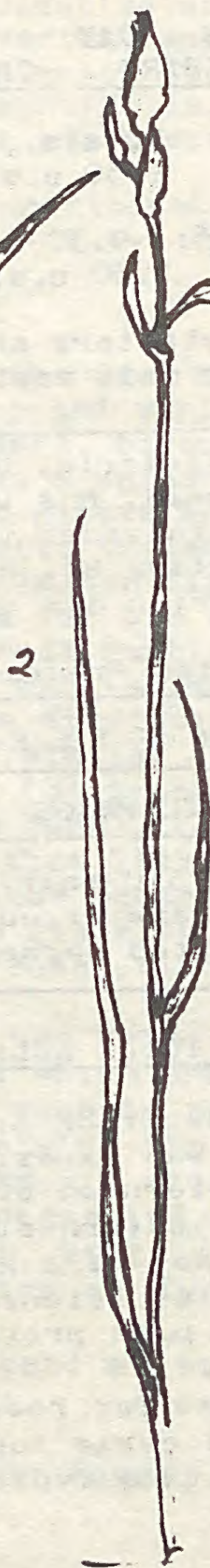
at the Education Centre, 510 Mair St. Ballarat, 8 p.m. Sunday Nov. 28. Members are urged to note this event, and to invite any interested persons to attend.

OBSERVING THE TOTAL ECLIPSE.

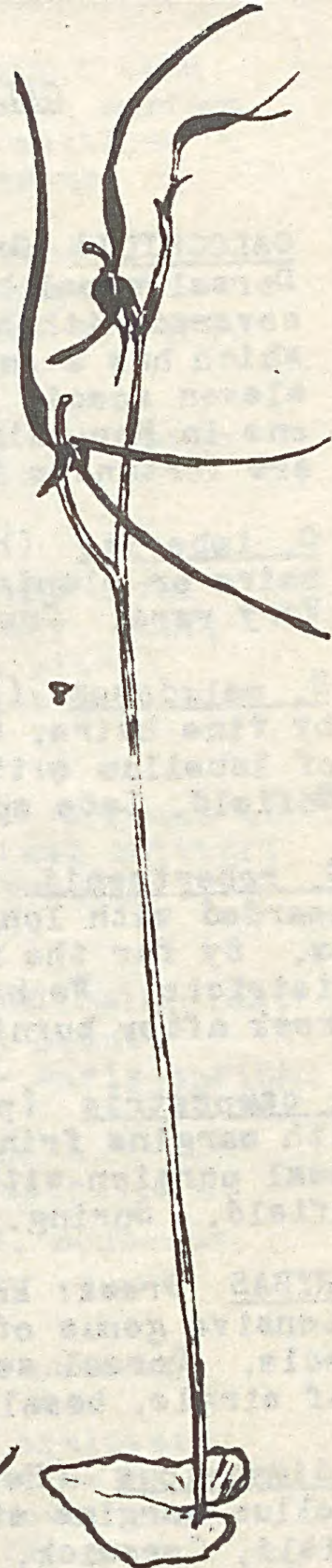
The full drama and awe inspiring spectacle of the total eclipse of the sun was experienced by a party of club members on the afternoon of October 23. The Club's choice of the western slope of Mt. Emu (400 m.) coincided with that of a group of scientists from the Tokyo University of Science. This site on the centre of the eclipse path provided very good viewing of the phenomenon.

The birds hurriedly prepared for roosting as the darkness increased with an eerie 'dusk' and greeted the light minutes later with a typical but brief

.....cont'd page 7



- | | | |
|---|--------------|-------------|
| 1 | Calochilus | imberlis |
| 2 | " | paludosus |
| 3 | " | robertsonii |
| 4 | " | campestris |
| 5 | Corybas | diemenicus |
| 6 | " | dilatatus |
| 7 | Chiloglottis | reflexa |
| 8 | Acianthus | caeniatus |



CALOCHILUS, CORYBAS AND CHILOGLOTTIS

OF THE BALLARAT DISTRICT.

CALOCHILUS Greek: kalos beautiful, kheilos, a lip. Dorsal sepal broad, petals shorter than the sepals, labellum covered with brown to purple hairs (excepting *C. imberbis* which has a smooth labellum). Leaf single. There are eleven species in the genus, one occurring in New Caledonia, one in New Guinea, and the others endemic to Australia. We are fortunate in having four species in our district.

C. imberbis (beardless beard orchid) Labellum with no hairs or glands, conspicuously striped with purple veins. Very rare. Creswick and Enfield. Late Spring.

C. paludosus (red beard) Plant slender. Labellum covered by fine hairs, shorter and more crowded at its base. Apex of labellum quite long 5 - 10 mm. Rare and isolated. Enfield. Late spring.

C. robertsonii (brown beard) Leaf long. Labellum densely bearded with long purple glistening hairs. Apex short 2 - 4 mm. By far the most common species being found in all districts. We have noticed a whitish variety at Spargo Creek after burning operations. Spring.

C. campestris (peaked beard) Leaf lanceolate. Labellum with margins fringed with glistening reddish blue hairs, basal portion without hairs. Rare and isolated. Creswick, Enfield. Spring.

CORYBAS Greek: korybas, a dancing priest of Phrygia. An extensive genus of about 50 species with eight Australian species. Dorsal sepal large and hood-shaped, petals minute. Leaf single, basal, and roundish. Flowers solitary.

C. diemenicus (Helmet orchid) Flower small. Hood greyish. Labellum margins minutely toothed. Scattered occurrences Enfield, Creswick, Mt. Beckworth, in moist situations. Winter - early Spring.

C. dilatatus (Stately helmet orchid) A larger plant than the former. Leaf sometimes with small lobes, under surface shiny. Labellum coarsely toothed at margins. Scattered occurrences Enfield, Creswick. Winter - early spring.

CHILOGLOTTIS (beautiful tongue) Dorsal sepal erect. Labellum on a very short claw and covered with rows of glistening stalked calli. A small genus of eight species, with six Australian specie.

C. gunni (common bird orchid) (not illustrated) Two large basal leaves. Labellum large on a irritable claw. Common in moist situations. Creswick, Enfield.

C. reflexa (autumn bird orchid) A slender plant 8 cm. Two basal leaves with undulate margins. Solitary, small green flower with purplish markings. Labellum with a distinct claw at its base. Very rare and isolated. Enfield. February, April, May.

ACIANTHUS Greek: akis a point, anthos flower. A genus of twenty specie with seven Australian specie. Leaf solitary. Labellum spreading with two basal calli. Flowers in a terminal raceme.

A. caudatus Flowers dark purplish on short pedicels. Leaf red-purple below. Dorsal sepal tapering to a point. Labellum sessile. Isolated Enfield. Winter - early spring.

Two other specie of Acianthus, A. exsertus and A. reniformis found in our district are not illustrated or described in this sheet.

S. Bedggood.

....from page 3
chorus of calls. A flock of sheep in the paddock below quickly assembled into a group with the coming of the darkness and began running aimlessly with the reappearance of the sun. The stages of the actual eclipse were fully exposed. Cloud cover over most of the sky prevented clean viewing of planets and brighter stars, but the ribbon of light outside the path of the eclipse was clearly visible on the Northern and Southern horizons.

MT. BECKWORTH gave much pleasure to four car loads of members who visited there on 17th October. On the way, white necked heron and little egret were noted feeding. The bush was fairly dry, and it was said that flowers were not as prolific as usual.

Many orchids were blooming, including the mauve wax-lip (*Glossodia major*) in profusion, yellow moth orchid (*D. pedunculata*), spider orchid (*Caladenia dilatata*), Bearded and sun orchids, nodding, tall and little greenhoods; rabbits ears (*Thelymitra antennifer*), pink fingers (*C. carnea*), leopard orchid (*D. maculata*), spade lipped (*D. palacyla*).

Also noted was the bearded heath, musky caladenia, flat bush pea, early nancies, rock fern (*Cheilanthes tenuifolia*), black eyed susan, pennywort and rice flower.

☼ While out walking in Nerrina area recently Mrs. Fry and Edith spotted a healthy koala enjoying a meal in a gum tree. Ralph, Edith's dog, was also a very interested spectator.

CORRECTION and APOLOGY.

The Editor made an error in the article on "Taxidermy" in the July News Sheet. Where it read "Mr. Smith, though not an experienced naturalist.....etc", it should have read "Mrs. Smith, though not an experienced naturalist...etc."

I apologize for the mistake, and regret any upset caused.
B. Gray.

Editorial Panel: S. Bedggood, G. Binns,
B. Gray.

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